



Atty. Dkt. No. 016907-1147

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Hiroki KANNO et al.

Title: IMAGE PROCESSING  
APPARATUS

Appl. No.: 09/663,690

Filing Date: 09/19/2000

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: 2822 2626

**RECEIVED**

JAN 24 2003

Technology Center 2800

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 CFR §1.56**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of a document known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

**TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The listed document is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, and within three (3) months of the mailing date of the foreign office action.

**RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT**

The foregoing document was cited by the examiner in Applicants' corresponding Japanese application.

Document A1 discloses a technique for storing, into an image memory, the image data of high gradation input from an external device, executing gradation conversion processing for generating image data of low gradation from the high gradation image data, feeding back and storing the low gradation image data, generated by the conversion process, into the area of the image memory in which the high gradation image data used for the gradation conversion process was stored, and outputting the stored low gradation image data to an image output device.

An English translation of the foreign-language document is not readily available. However, the absence of such translation does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted foreign language document (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP §609). An English language abstract is provided herewith.

**STATEMENT**

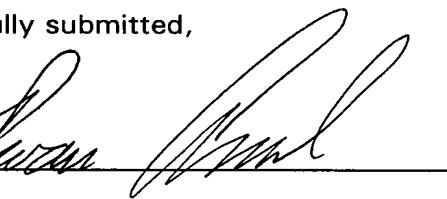
The undersigned hereby states in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1) that each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to filing of this Statement.

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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Date January 23, 2003

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